

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11-16, 21-24 and 26-30 are pending. Claims 9, 10, 17-20 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the underlying subject matter. Claims 26-30 are new. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicant thanks Primary Examiner Johnson for the courtesy of the personal interview with Applicant's undersigned representative on May 5, 2005. During the interview, Applicant's representative described the differences between the claimed invention and the applied reference, U.S. Patent No. 4,631,765 to Casey (hereinafter *Casey*) and U.S. Patent No. 2,609,043 to Dubinsky (hereinafter "Dubinsky"), which was not applied.

Examiner Johnson agreed that amending the claims such as claim 1 to recite "a substantial portion of the removable fabric is located on a surface of the base fabric and the removable fabric section is spaced from edges of the base fabric" would overcome the art of record including *Casey* and *Dubinsky*.

Claims 1-8, 11-16 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Casey, U.S. Application No. 4,631,765 (*Casey*).

Although *Dubinsky* has not been applied against the claims of the present application, to further prosecution in this matter, Applicant had directed claim amendments and remarks to overcome the art of record including *Casey* and *Dubinsky*.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 24 as discussed during the examiner interview. As noted above, the Examiner agreed that amended claim 1 is now patentable over *Casey* and *Dubinsky*. Similar amendments have been made to independent claim 24. As amended, claims 1 and 24 recite, among other features,

a base fabric comprising a receiving section adapted to receive a removable fabric section, wherein a substantial portion of the removable fabric is located on a surface of the base fabric and the removable fabric section is spaced from edges of the base fabric.

The rejection with respect to independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8, and independent claim 24 and dependent claims 26-29 (new) is rendered moot by the amendments. Allowance of at claims 1-8, 24 and 26-29 is respectfully requested.

With respect to independent claim 12, *Casey* does not disclose or suggest, at least,

a base fabric sheet comprising a receiving section adapted to receive a removable fabric section, wherein the removable fabric section is located on a solid continuous surface of the base fabric

sheet and the removable fabric section is spaced from edges of the base fabric sheet,
as recited, among other features, in independent claim 12 (as presented). *Casey* is directed to covering modules adapted to be detachably connected to one another to form blankets, quilts, etc. See col. 1, lines 57-59. The modules are "connected along their marginal edges." See col. 1, lines 62-63. However, *Casey* does not disclose or suggest a decorative fabric assembly that includes a removable fabric section located on a solid continuous surface of the base fabric sheet and the removable section is spaced from edges of the base fabric sheet, as claimed. *Dubinsky* fails to overcome these deficiencies of *Casey* described above.

In view of the above, independent claim 12 is patentable over *Casey* and *Dubinsky*. Claims 13-16 depend from claim 12, and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 13-16 are also patentable.

To the extent that independent claim 21 includes the allowable features of independent claim 12, claim 21 is also patentable for these reasons. Claims 22-23 depend from patentable claim 21, and for this reason and the additional features they recite, claims 22-23 are also patentable.

Applicant has added new claim 30. New claim 30, directed to a decorative fabric assembly, recites, among other features,

a base fabric having a receiving section, wherein the base fabric is continuous at its edges and has an opening in the receiving section;

one or more panels adapted to be removably attached to the base fabric at the receiving section, wherein the one or more panels cover the opening in the receiving section of the base fabric.

Support for this claim can be found in the specification, at least, at page 3, beginning at line 20 and Figures 1 and 2, for example. Neither *Casey* nor *Dubinsky*, applied separately or in combination, disclose or suggest, all of the features of new claim 30. Therefore, claim 30 is patentable over *Casey* and *Dubinsky*.

CONCLUSION

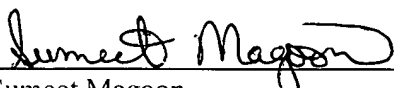
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that all of the objections and rejections against this application have been fully addressed and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections and a notice of allowance for the application are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge all fees associated with this filing to our Deposit Account No. 50-2849.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desired in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 6, 2005



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